

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 ABF-01 OMB-01  
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FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1940  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 10623

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF, ICEM, AO, PO  
SUBJECT: ICEM REPATRIATIONS FROM PORTUGAL TO ANGOLA

REF: STATE 161495

1. MISSION HAS TRANSMITTED CONTENTS REFTEL TO ICEM  
DIRECTOR, THOMAS, AND RECEIVED FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. BRENNAN:  
I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 27 JUNE REPLYING TO MINE OF  
14 JUNE CONCERNING A QUESTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR  
A GROUP OF PERSONS WHO WERE EVACUATED TO PORTUGAL FROM THE  
NOVOA LISBOA AREA OF ANGOLA AND WHO NOW WISH TO RETURN  
THERE.

I REGRET VERY MUCH THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME MIS-  
UNDERSTANDING ON THIS MATTER AND DID NOT MEAN TO SUGGEST  
THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN ENCOURAGED ICEM TO UNDER-  
TAKE EFFORTS TO REPATRIATE PERSONS TO ANGOLA. NEVERTHE-  
LESS, I DO RECALL THAT DURING MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON THERE  
APPEARED TO BE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AT THAT TIME IN THE  
POSSIBILITIES FOR THE RETURN TO ANGOLA OF SOME OF THOSE  
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PERSONS WHO HAD LEFT FOR PORTUGAL - WHICH WOULD ASSIST  
(A) THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL AND (B) THE NEW GOVERNMENT  
IN ANGOLA.

REGARDLESS OF ANY BACKGROUND DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT,  
I DO FEEL OBLIGED TO ASK FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE POSI-  
TION TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE PORTUGUESE

GOVERNMENT AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE TO RETURNEES, THE IARN, IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ENTIRE GROUP AS IS THE UNHCR FOR A PART OF THE GROUP CONSIDERED AS ELIGIBLE FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL FUNDS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE MOVEMENT OF THE ENTIRE GROUP AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO ICEM COULD BE DRAWN UPON FOR THIS PURPOSE.

DUE TO VARIOUS FACTORS, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FIND RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THEY THEMSELVES HAVE CHOSEN OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL TO RETURN TO ANGOLA - A RETURN WHICH IS APPROVED BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES THERE. SURELY ASSISTANCE EXTENDED TO THEM FOR THIS PURPOSE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS A SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEMS AND THOSE OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. I WOULD THEREFORE URGE RECONSIDERATION FOR A WIDER INTERPRETATION OF THE TERMS OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO ICEM FOR PORTUGAL SO THAT REPATRIATION OF THIS GROUP CAN BE REALIZED. SINCERELY YOURS, /S/ JOHN F. THOMAS.

END QUOTE.

2. AFTER RECEIPT OF ABOVE, ICEM INFORMED MISSION THAT THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 4,000 TO 5,000 PERSONS WHO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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ASKED TO RETURN TO ANGOLA. OF THESE, 2,300 ARE PRESENTLY CARED FOR AT PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT EXPENSE. IT IS FURTHER ESTIMATED THAT 15 PERCENT OF POTENTIAL RETURNEES ARE OF EUROPEAN ORIGIN, 25 PERCENT MIXED, AND 60 PERCENT AFRICAN. MANY ARE REPORTED BY PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AS BEING SKILLED WORKERS. ICEM FURTHER REPORTS THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT DUTY FREE IMPORT OF TOOLS WHICH THESE SKILLED WORKERS MIGHT BRING WITH THEM.

3. PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WHICH MISSION SHOULD BASE REPLY TO ICEM DIRECTOR THOMAS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Concepts:** REPATRIATION, REFUGEES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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